

Telephone Conference Call Committee Report
February 2021

The Telephone Conference Call Committee continues to maintain the current schedule of nightly meetings and a Friday afternoon meeting, as there are many areas that are unable to hold physical meetings and many members who have trepidation about attending such physical meetings.

Nightly meetings continue to be held from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The 11 trained moderators have developed a rotating schedule that includes (for the nightly meetings): a meeting moderator, a timekeeper, a person who inputs caller information and someone who is ready to open a newcomers room in the case of 3 or more newcomers being in attendance at the meeting. Members who serve as timekeepers without being trained moderators are covering 3 of these timekeeping positions each week.

Two of the weekly meetings are comment meetings. These are held on Sunday and Wednesday nights. Attendees who have 90 days or more of clean time are allowed to make up to three comments per meeting; those who give therapy are allowed to receive up to 3 comments.

Those who are new to the program and claim a desire to stop gambling are read the 20 Questions, either in the main room or in a newcomers room. Most of the meetings see at least one newcomer; it is not unusual to see 3-5 newcomers on any given evening. At the Friday afternoon meeting, held from 3:00-4:00 Eastern Time, newcomers are welcomed and read the 20 Questions following the meeting. This meeting lasts an hour. Members with 90 days or more of clean time are encouraged to make comments sharing their experience, strength, and hope to the newcomer.

Moderators each currently attend, chair, and assist at between 1 and 6 meetings per week.

Attendance has seen an uptick in the last month, especially at the Friday afternoon meeting, which has jumped from an average attendance of 19-25 to over 30. Current attendance ranges between 30-80 callers per meeting. There is a significant number of attendees who have 90 days or less of clean time in our program. Other attendees range up to those who have 40 or more years of clean time.

As the COVID crisis continues, the committee strives to be encouraging of those newer to the program and to help them with getting assistance from other members between meetings. While the meeting can't offer sponsorship as we currently understand it, attendees are urged to reach out to others using a list of volunteers who offer support.

The US meetings now all use the same email address for all meetings: weeklycallhelp@gmail.com
We receive between 1 and 10 requests for assistance or information a day.

A service opportunity is available for US GA members to act as timekeepers once a week. These volunteers are not expected to run meetings nor will they receive the full computer training. Their only job is to keep track of time and to remind speakers when the recommended time limit has been reached. **If anyone in your area is interested in serving in this capacity on a one-night-a-week basis, please have them contact the Committee Chair.**

The US meetings are also always interested in training additional moderators. Again, please contact the Committee Chair. We have had 2 more moderators join our ranks this month, which is encouraging and very helpful as the moderators have been maintaining a sometimes-grueling schedule.

The Canada-wide meeting continues to meet the challenge. They are maintaining meetings on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. This information has also been updated on the Trustee website.

Spanish speaking meetings originating from Mexico continue to be held on Wednesday and Sunday evenings as well as regularly scheduled meetings from Madrid, Spain. Moderators for these meetings have been trained by members of the Telephone Conference Call committee and their formats have been approved. These meetings are also included on the list found on the Trustee Website. (Meeting times are listed by the local time of the originating cities.)

A full list of meetings and contact information can be found on the Trustee website.

Respectfully Submitted.

Jeannie B. Telephone Conference Call Committee